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500.32256C12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M. KATO et al

Serial No. 10/812,080

Filed: March 30, 2004

For: NONVOLATILE SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY

Art Unit: 2824

Examiner: V. Le

**LETTER REQUESTING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF THE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FILED ON JANUARY 26, 2005**

Mail Stop: Issue Fee
Commissioner For Patents
POB 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 17, 2005

Sir:

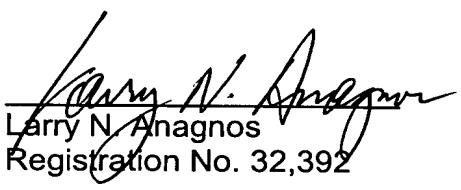
Applicants, through their undersigned representative, acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of the above-identified application, the issue fee of which was paid this May 10, 2005. However, a review of the file history shows that an acknowledgement of receipt as well as of formal consideration thereof by the Examiner of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(4), on January 26, 2005, was not formally mailed to applicants. In this regard this IDS was submitted prior to the mailing of a first official action on the merits with

regard to the above-referenced application which was under an RCE (Request for Continued Examination) status, at that time (the first action having resulted in the mailing of an official notification of allowability of the above-referenced application). A review of USPTO's private PAIR database shows that, in fact, such IDS was received in the USPTO on January 26, 2005, which is prior to the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance papers. A copy of the private PAIR print out directed thereto is enclosed herewith as Exhibits A1 and A2.

It is respectfully submitted that such IDS be duly considered, and, acknowledgement of entry thereof as well as of a formal consideration by the Examiner be mailed to applicants. (A viewing of the USPTO private PAIR website shows that the IDS in question including the listed document therein was entered by the USPTO into the USPTO database and, therefore, should be available to the Examiner). Noting that the above-identified application is currently under an allowed status and, also, the payment of the issue fee was also recently filed, expeditious handling regarding this matter by the USPTO personnel and Examiner will be greatly appreciated.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.38011VV2).

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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